

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An inflatable surfboard covering device for covering the top, bottom and side rail surfaces of a surfboard and comprising:

5 top and bottom surface cushions for covering the top and bottom surfaces of the surfboard;

side rail cushions for covering the respective side rails, with the top, bottom and side rail cushions cooperating to form a surfboard compartment and a mouth for insertion of the surfboard therethrough into the compartment;

10 at least one of the cushions including flexible, gas impervious casing walls cooperating to form an a cushion casing, the casing further defining an air tight cushion bladder for receipt of a pressurizing gas to expand the volume of the bladder and distend the casing to define a pneumatic cushion; and

a valve for admitting pressurizing gas to the bladder.

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2. The covering device of claim 1 wherein:

the top and bottom surface cushions and side rail cushions include flexible gas impervious casing walls that cooperate to form respective cushion casings, the casings further defining respective air tight cushion bladders and being distensible to, when the
20 volume of the bladders is expanded by the introduction of a pressurizing gas, distend respective outward casing walls from respective inward casing walls to define respective pneumatic cushions; and

a plurality of valves for admitting pressurizing gas to the respective bladders.

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3. The covering device of claim 2 wherein:

the side rail cushion casings include respective inward and outward walls, with at least the inward walls being configured to, when the side rail cushions are inflated

by the introduction of pressurized gas into the respective side rail cushion bladders, complement the shape of the respective side rail surfaces of the surfboard.

4. The covering device of claim 2 wherein:

5 the cover includes partition walls that separate the side rail cushion casings from the top and bottom surface cushion casings.

5. The covering device of claim 4 wherein:

the cover is formed with an inner layer and an outer layer that are segmented to
10 define the respective inward and outward casing walls; and
the partition walls extend from the inner layer to the outer layer.

6. The covering device of claim 5 wherein:

the partition walls cooperate in defining the casing walls of the respective
15 adjacent cushions formed on either side of each partition wall; and
at least one partition wall is formed with a passage means for communicating
pressurized air between its respective adjacent cushions.

7. The covering device of claim 1 wherein:

20 the cushions are formed with respective inner walls configured to
complementally fit the respective surfaces of the surfboard.

8. The covering device of claim 1 that includes:

a releasable closure means for fastening the opening in a closed position.
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9. The covering device of claim 8 wherein:

the closure means includes a hook and pile material.

10. The covering device of claim 8 wherein:
the cushions cooperate form the opening at the rear of the compartment.

11. The covering device of claim 1 wherein:
the casing walls are constructed of plastic.

12. The covering device of claim 1 wherein:
the casing walls are constructed of vinyl.

13. The covering device of claim 1 wherein:
the casing of the at least one cushion includes an outward and an inward casing
wall; and

the outward casing wall is constructed to, when the bladder is pressurized,
cooperate with the pressurizing gas to press the inward wall into a conforming
relationship with at least a portion of the contour of the surfboard.

14. The covering device of claim 1 wherein:
the top and bottom surface cushions and side rail cushions include such flexible
gas impervious casing walls that cooperate to form respective cushion casings, the
casings further defining respective air tight bladders with the side rail cushion bladders
being configured in communication with one another; and

first, second and third valves, with the first valve admitting pressurized gas to
the side rail cushion bladders and the second and third valves admitting pressurized gas
respectively to the top and the bottom surface cushions.

15. The covering device of claim 1 wherein:
the top and bottom surface cushions and side rail cushions include such flexible
gas impervious casing walls that cooperate to form respective cushion casings, the

casings further defining respective air tight bladders which are in communication with one another; and

the valve admits pressurizing gas to the bladders.

5 16. The covering device of claim 1 that includes:

heat sealed seams between the opposite lateral sides of the respective top and bottom surface cushions and opposite sides of the side rail cushions.

17. The covering device of claim 1 wherein:

10 the mouth is formed with an upper lip and a lower lip defining a mouth opening therebetween; and

the lips are formed with closure means for closing and opening the mouth opening.

15 18. The covering device of claim 17 wherein:

the surfboard includes a rear surface;

the upper and lower lips are formed with flexible lip walls configured to receive cushioning material therebetween to define respective upper and lower lip cushions; and

20 the upper and lower lip cushions cooperate to define a rear surface cushion for covering and protecting the rear surface when the closure means is closed.

19. The covering device of claim 17 wherein:

25 the upper and lower lips are formed with respective flexible lip walls defining respective pressure chambers therebetween; and

when the pressure chambers are pressurized, the upper and lower lip walls distend to form respective laterally projecting upper and lower lip cushions.

20. A surfboard covering device for covering a surfboard having side rail surfaces and top and bottom surfaces and comprising:

a pair of inflatable side rail cushions formed with respective inflatable cushion bladders, the side rail cushions being connected together at their respective forward
5 extremities and configured to, when their respective bladders are inflated, angle outwardly and rearwardly away from one another to project along at least a portion of such side rail surfaces to terminate in respective rear extremities;

an inflation valve for communicating inflation gas to the bladders;

top and bottom covering sheets for covering the top and bottom surfaces of the
10 surfboard and connected on their respective opposite sides to such side rail cushions, the top and bottom sheets and side rail cushions cooperating to form a compartment therebetween and an opening for receipt of the surfboard.

21. The covering device of claim 20 wherein:

15 the side rail cushions are formed along at least a portion of their respective lateral inner sides with inward side walls configured to, when engaged with the respective side rail surfaces, and, when the respective bladders are inflated, assume a C-shaped in vertical cross-section configuration to compliment the shape of the respective side rail surfaces.

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22. The covering device of claim 20 wherein:

the side rail cushions are constructed to place their respective bladders in flow communication with one another.

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23. The covering device of claim 20 wherein:

the side rail cushions and the covering sheets are constructed to, when the surfboard is received in the compartment and the respective bladders are inflated,

cause the side rail cushions to, after such angling outwardly, project rearwardly to the respective rear extremities in a generally parallel orientation to one another.

24. The covering device of claim 20 wherein:

5 the sheets include padding to protect the top and bottom surfaces.

25. The covering device of claim 20 wherein:

10 the side rail cushions are constructed to, when inflated, project laterally inwardly over the lateral marginal edges of the top and bottom surfaces of the surfboard.

26. The covering device of claim 20 wherein:

15 the side rail cushions cooperate to, with the surfboard received in the compartment, form a cushioning nose cap projecting across the front of the surfboard.

27. A surfboard covering device for covering the top, bottom and side rail surfaces of a surfboard comprising:

20 a pair of inflatable side rail cushions connected together at their respective front extremities that angle rearwardly and outwardly to engage the opposite side rails surfaces of the surfboard, the side rail cushions being formed with respective rear portions projecting parallel to one another and being terminative in respective side rail cushion rear extremities;

25 inflatable top and bottom surface cushions for respectively covering the top and bottom surfaces and cooperating with the side rail cushions to form a compartment for receipt of such surfboard, the top and bottom surface cushions terminating at respective rear extremities to cooperate with the side rail cushion rear extremities to form an access opening for inserting the surfboard into the compartment.

28. An inflatable protective surfboard covering device comprising:

a bag device formed with a plurality of walls and including a compartment configured to complementally receive a surfboard, the bag device being formed with multiple inflation chambers for receiving pressurizing gas to distend at least some of the walls such that the walls cooperate with the inflation chambers to form respective cushions to protect selected portions of the surfboard, the walls further cooperating to, when such chambers receive such pressurizing gas, constrain the distension of such bag away from the surfboard;

the walls further cooperating to form an upper and lower lip defining a mouth for receipt therethrough of the surfboard into the compartment; and

at least one pressure valve for introduction of the pressurizing gas into the chambers.

29. A method for covering and protecting a surfboard having a top and bottom surface and side rail surfaces, including:

selecting a cover formed with a plurality of compartmentalized and inflatable cushions for respectively engaging at least the top, bottom and side rail surfaces and defining therebetween a compartment for receipt of the surfboard, the cushions being formed with respective rear extremities that cooperate to define a mouth and including a plurality of distensible casing walls cooperating to define respective cushion casings and forming therebetween respective inflatable and gas impervious cushion bladders;

introducing pressurizing gas into the bladders to distend the casing walls to a predetermined volume to inflate the cushions; and

inserting the surfboard through the mouth and into the compartment.

30. The method of claim 29 including:

forming the mouth with an additional cushion for covering and protecting a rear surface of the surfboard when the surfboard is fully inserted through the mouth and positioned in the compartment.

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31. The surfboard covering device of claim 1 wherein;

at least some of said cushions are formed with exterior walls; and

at least some of the exterior walls are frocked.

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32. The surfboard covering device of claim 1 wherein;

for use with a surfboard travel cover having a predetermined interior configuration; and

the cushions are configured such that when inflated over a surfboard they may be received in the travel cover.